and submit modified report to Central Water Commission. The time to reach consensus will depend upon the priority attached to project by the State.

Disparity of Water Distribution

2139. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there exist grave disparities of water distribution in different parts of the country as some regions have excess water resources that are wasted whereas others suffer from perpetual scarcities;

(b) whether Government propose to set up a national water grid to bring about a balanced supply of precious water resources in the country which can be similar to that of our existing regional power grids; and

(c) if so, by when and whether any budgetary provisions have been made or are likely to made during the Ninth Five Year Plan period in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Due to uneven temporal & spatial distribution of rainfall, some regions in the country have excess water resources which are not fully utilised where as some regions are deficient in water resource. The erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation (now Ministry of Water Resources) and the Central Water Commission formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development in the country which envisages inter-linkages among the various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins for optimum utilisation of water resources. This perspective plan comprises two main components viz., (a) Himalayan Rivers Development and (b) Peninsular Rivers Development. For firming up the proposals of inter-linking Peninsular as well as the

Himalayan rivers, the Government of India have set up the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982. Suitable provision for this purpose has been made in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Target Fixed for Irrigation Capacity

†2140. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set out the target for irrigation capacity in the country at the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details of the target and the estimate of actual irrigation capacity likely to be installed;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the country has no capability for utilisation of the irrigation capacity according to the capacity installed; and

(d) if so, the details of the estimated gap between the irrigation capacity installed and that of its utilisation capacity by the end of the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) The targets for creation of Irrigation Potential during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997—2002) are as under:

	Type of Irrigation	Target (in M.ha)
1.	Major and Medium Irrigation	9.81
2.	Minor Irrigation	7.24
	Total	17.05

As all types of Irrigation Projects are planned and executed by the State Governments actual creation of irrigation capacity depends

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.